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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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12/27/05*

In re patent application of:)
Hathaway) Before the Examiner
Serial No. 10/008,781) Woo, Julian W.
Filed November 13, 2001) Group Art Unit
APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR) 3731
POSITIVE CLOSURE OF AN)
INTERNAL TISSUE MEMBRANE)
OPENING)

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 27, 2005, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and consideration of the accompanying remarks.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this transmittal.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this transmittal.

Additionally, please provide any extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but do not include any payment of issue fees that are or may become due.

I certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Chil Mercer
Typed or Printed Name of Person Transmitting Correspondence

Chil Mercer
Signature of Person Transmitting Correspondence

December 27, 2005
Date of Signature

Hathaway, USSN 10/008,781
RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION
7037-438.Q.280158v2

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01 FC:1202 50.00 OP
02 FC:1201 200.00 OP
Atty. Docket 7037-438.Q.280158v2